

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ATHENS 10535 011318Z

42

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 TRSE-00 FRB-03

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 /061 W
----- 123819

R 301447Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7139

INFO ECBRUSSELS 1837

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 10535

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GR

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL LABOR LEADER CRITICIZES MULTINATIONS

REF: USEC 8951

1. AS NOTED IN REFTEL, HERIBERT MAIER, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF COMMERCIAL, CLERICAL AND TECHNICAL EMPLOYEES, VISITED ATHENS LAST WEEK AS A MEMBER OF A DELEGATION OF ICFTU AND INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS WHICH CAME HERE FOR DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE GREEK TRADE UNION SITUATION WITH GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF GREEK WORKERS (GSEE) AND OTHER GREEK LABOR OFFICIALS. (RESULTS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY.) THE DELEGATION ARRIVED HERE ON SEPTEMBER 24 AND DEPARTED SEPTEMBER 28. MAIER LEFT EARLIER, ON SEPTEMBER 25.

2. DURING HIS BRIEF STAY HERE, MAIER MET SEPARATELY WITH OFFICIALS OF THE FEDERATION OF ORGANIZATIONS OF BANK EMPLOYEES ON SEPTEMBER 24, FOLLOWING WHICH HE HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE. THERE WERE SEVERAL REPORTS ON MAIER'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE PRESS. ACCORDING TO THESE ACCOUNTS,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ATHENS 10535 011318Z

MAIER CRITICIZED THE LABOR RELATIONS POLICIES OF

MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES GENERALLY. THE REPORTS CLAIMED THAT MAIER "REFERRED TO THE MANNER IN WHICH MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES SEEK TO HINDER THE LABOR MOVEMENT, TO BREAK UP TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH ILLEGAL MEANS OR TO REPLACE THEM WITH 'CONTROLLED UNIONS.'" HE ALSO REPORTEDLY REFERRED TO A "GUIDE" TO ANTI-LABOR ACTIVITY ALLEGELY PREPARED BY THE FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK.

3. KATHIMERINI, A PRO-GOVERNMENT DAILY, IN ITS ACCOUNT, REPORTED THAT THEOCHARIS PAPAMARGARIS, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION WHO WITH MAIER AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, ATTACKED THE BRANCHES OF AMERICAN BANKS IN GREECE. IT ADDED THAT PAPAMARGARIS ALSO CLAIMED THAT AMERICAN EXPRESS IN ATHENS HAD GRANTED DEMANDS FOR HIGHER WAGES, WHICH HAD BEEN PENDING FOR OVER A YEAR, ONLY AFTER PRESSURE FROM GERMAN EMPLOYEES OF AMERICAN EXPRESS IN FRANKFURT -- AN EFFORT WHICH HE SAID WAS SUPPORTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF BANK EMPLOYEES.

4. COMMENT: AN OFFICIAL OF ONE OF THE AMERICAN BANKS HERE INFORMS US THAT MAIER JOINED THE VISITING ICFTU DELEGATION AT PAPAMARGARIS' INVITATION. PAPAMARGARIS' FEDERATION HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING, WITH RELATIVE SUCCESS, TO ORGANIZE THE EMPLOYEES OF BRANCHES OF AMERICAN BANKS IN GREECE.

5. OF THE SIX AMERICAN BRANCH BANKS IN ATHENS, FIVE HAVE BEEN UNIONIZED-- AMERICAN EXPRESS SOME TIME AGO; AND CHASE MAHATTAN, THE BANK OF AMERICA, CONTINENTAL AND THE FIRST NATIONAL OF CHICAGO WITHIN THE LAST YEAR, AFTER PAPAMARGARIS BECAME FEDERATION PRESIDENT. ONLY THE EMPLOYEES OF CITIBANK HAVE NOT BEEN ORGANIZED, REPORTEDLY DUE TO LACK OF INTEREST AMONG ITS EMPLOYEES. AMERICAN EXPRESS RECENTLY SIGNED A COLLECTIVE LABOR AGREEMENT. (OTHER BANKS ARE UNDER PRESSURE TO REACH SIMILAR LABOR SETTLEMENTS.) BANK OF AMERICA AND OTHERS HAVE SO FAR MAINTAINED THAT APPLICATION TO THE FOREIGN BANKS OF THE LABOR GUIDELINES FOR GREEK BANKS, SUCH AS AUTOMATIC PROMOTION, WOULD UNACCEPTABLY LIMIT MANAGERIAL PREROGATIVES. WE UNDERSTAND THE BANK OF AMERICA BRANCH HERE IS AWARE OF THE ABOVE ALLEGATION CONCERNING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ATHENS 10535 011318Z

PRESSURE BY ITS EMPLOYEES IN FRANKFURT, BUT WE WERE TOLD THAT A CHECK INTO THE ALLEGATION REVEALED NOTHING SUPPORTING IT.
KUBISCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, MEETINGS, LABOR UNIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS10535
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760370-0631
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976095/aaaaadgl.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SIL
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNATIONAL LABOR LEADER CRITICIZES MULTINATIONS
TAGS: ELAB, GR, US, (MAIER, HERIBERT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006